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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Meeting of the Society. The first meeting of the Society, in the coming lecture season, will be held at the Engineering Societies' Hall, No. 29 West 39th Street, on Tuesday evening, November 23, 1915, at 8.30 o'clock, when Henry R. Rose, D.D., will lecture upon "The Countries at War." Lantern views will be shown.

NORTH AMERICA.

Forest Reservation in the White Mountains. June last saw the termination of an important national experiment: the fulfillment of the Weeks Act of 1911 for the government acquisition of forest land at the headwaters of navigable streams ("New England's Federal Forest Reserve," by Philip W. Ayres, in *American Forestry*, July, 1915). The entire appropriation was devoted to the hitherto neglected Appalachians. The land acquired comprises

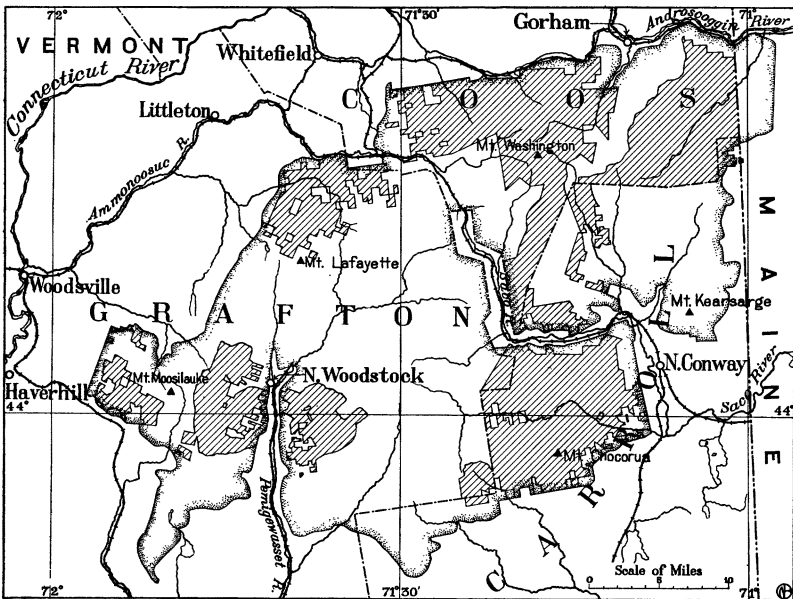


FIG. 1—Map of the White Mountain National Forest showing the present purchase area in New Hampshire and Maine. Scale, 1:870,000. Redrawn, by permission, from a map in *American Forestry* for July, 1915.

Present purchase area indicated by stippling; tracts already purchased or approved for purchase, by ruling.

about 1,250,000 acres, of which a little more than one-fifth pertains to the White Mountains area. The character of the forest in the latter region is conclusive evidence of the need for government control. Private companies cannot manipulate the timber crop profitably without leaving the land impoverished; and an enterprise so far-reaching and costly is beyond the power of such a state as New Hampshire with its upland farms and fringe of small manufacturing factories supporting a population of less than 450,000 souls. In its purchase of the

Crawford Notch, the state has indeed made a valuable contribution to the public welfare. In the White Mountains Reservation much of the forest has been cut over. On the steep slopes, erosion has followed with dire results and in many places fire has swept disastrously over the debris-littered surface or keen winter winds have blasted the remaining scattered and ill-protected trees. Thus, while the northern slopes of the Presidential Range have been saved by their heavier precipitation, the drier eastern side now shows a large proportion of young deciduous growth, economically useless. Two centuries must elapse before the valuable pine and spruce will arrive at maturity. Besides conservation of the forest cover, government operations will extend the useful work begun by the Appalachian Mountain Club and render more of this beautiful country accessible to the tourist; already new paths have been opened in that part of the Carter-Moriah Range in the valley of the Wild River. The present reservation must, however, be increased to obtain maximum results. The headwaters of the most important rivers are not yet under complete control. In respect of the Androscoggin and the Kennebec, well provided with lake storage, this matter of control for purposes of industry and navigation is not so important; but the case is different with the Connecticut, a river upon which the well-being of some 2,000,000 people is dependent.

The Mohave Desert. Dr. Ellsworth Huntington spent most of April, May and June in the Mohave Desert with various members of the staff of the Desert Botanical Laboratory at Tucson. At the request of the Society, he has written the following brief summary of results:

"Our purpose is to make a study of the relation of climatic variations to organic evolution. The materials for such a study are extraordinarily favorable. The three rivers which once drained to Death Valley, namely, the Mohave, Owens, and Amargosa, have all had lakes along their courses during the recent past. These lakes, especially those of the Owens, Searles, Panamint, Death Valley series present a truly astonishing number of strands. In addition to these evidences of climatic instability, there are a large number of lacustrine deposits which are exposed to view in a way that is probably nowhere else paralleled. From all the various lines of evidence it seems probable that we can frame a climatic scale from late Tertiary times through the glacial period to the present time with almost no breaks. Our purpose is to carry this study farther next year by making an intensive study of Death Valley.

"To the usual types of physiographic and stratigraphic evidence as to changes of climate, geologists have recently added a new and most convincing type in the form of chemical studies of the length of time required for the concentration of the salts in some of our western lakes. On the basis of their evidence, an attempt was made to see whether the old strands of such lakes as Owens, Mono, Pyramid and others agree with the fluctuations of the curve of growth of the sequoias. The results show, not only that there is a surprising degree of agreement, but that from the character of the strands it is possible to gain an idea as to the nature of one climatic epoch compared with another. For example, the moist period of the fourteenth century shows evidence of having been particularly windy."

Continued Destruction by Forest Fires. The Forest Service estimates that forest fires in 1914 burned over an area of approximately 6,000,000 acres with a total loss of at least \$9,500,000. The ravages of fire have been continued during the past season and large areas were aflame in Washington and Montana in August and September. Many of the fires were in view along the Northern Pacific Railway. The wide-spread smoke made it impossible, late in August and early in September, to see Mts. Hood, Adams and St. Helens from Portland or Mt. Rainier from Puget Sound.

Agriculture in Alaska. The reports of the agricultural experiment stations of Alaska (Report of the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Stations, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1914) have a peculiar interest from the pioneer nature of their work in this region which approaches the limits of human

habitability. The delicate adjustments of human economy, the narrow border between success and failure stand out with singular clearness. This is more particularly the case at the interior stations of the Yukon-Tanana basin, Fairbanks and Rampart, which differ greatly in climate and accessibility from the coast stations of Sitka and Kodiak Island. In a region with so short a growing season, weather becomes the factor of supreme importance. As yet the weather of interior Alaska is little understood. According to the superintendent of the Fairbanks station the years under observation have shown no two seasons reasonably alike. Yet results continue to justify optimistic hopes for the future of Alaskan agriculture (*cf.* "Alaska Agricultural Possibilities," *Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, Vol. 42, 1910, pp. 888-903). In a "normal" year, barley, oats and wheat always mature and hardy vegetables flourish; turnips can be grown within 100 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The year 1914 appears to have been a crucial test; it was particularly unfavorable. Early in the season, drought suspended growth for three weeks. Disastrously heavy rains followed in the latter part of June and all July. The Fairbanks station reports 0.93 inch of rain in less than an hour on one day in June; for the month of July the total was 4.63 inches as compared with 2.24 inches for the same period of the previous year. The prevalent cloudiness—where direct sunlight is of paramount value—was even more harmful: July had only one entirely clear day.

Under such climatic conditions the maintenance of a favorable balance demands unusual care in farming economy; study of soils and crops becomes imperative. Where the ground is frozen for seven months in the year such questions as those of slope and aspect are vital. On the southern slopes at the Fairbanks station the ground, contrary to general impression, thaws down to bedrock and with proper drainage makes an excellent seed-bed. Again, surface is important in relation to inversion of temperature. At Rampart, potatoes grown on the higher ground escape the early frosts of the lowlands.

This part of Alaska is in great need of a suitable species of farm animal. Cattle are not adapted to the climate; the cost of supporting them through the winter is practically prohibitive. A few dairy cows have been kept and the price of milk has justified their maintenance but all meat comes from outside, chiefly in the form of cold storage products, occasionally on the hoof. The introduction of a cross between the yak and ordinary cattle is advocated and supported by information received from the director of the agricultural station of Irkutsk, Siberia. He reports that such a cross is common in Mongolia, where it affords a strong draft, as well as a beef and milk animal.

Even more important is the experimental work in the production of plant breeds. Experiments extending over several years have shown that natural selection is too slow an agent to be of practical significance. Seven years have failed to produce a hardy winter wheat, even with the Kharkof variety. Foreign varieties of plants have not always proved adaptable, though there are notable exceptions, as the Siberian alfalfas and the recently tried spring wheat from Irkutsk that successfully withstood the severe conditions of the last year in Rampart.

Fish Supply from Lesser Slave Lake. In the course of the construction of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Ry., extending northwest from the Grand Trunk Pacific, the great fish resources, especially white fish, of Lesser Slave Lake (south shore about 55°20' N.) have been made available for the general market. White fish is now being shipped from the lake in refrigerator car lots to Chicago. This is the latest illustration of the fact that Canadian enterprise is bringing within reach important resources that are still outside the areas of considerable settlement.

Cozumel, "The Isle of Swallows." The paradoxical effects of insularity are well illustrated by the history of Cozumel, the easternmost point of Mexico, twelve miles from the mainland of the Yucatan peninsula. In pre-Spanish times it flourished as a great religious center. Thousands of Mayas flocked to its sacred shrines. So it was when discovered by Hernando Cortes, who made it his first landing on the way to the conquest of Mexico. Cortes

ordered the destruction of the sacred altars, and his initial act was soon followed by absolute prohibition of the pilgrimages that deprived the Spaniard of so much useful labor. Consequently the island fell into a state of complete abandonment. An American traveler of the early nineteenth century found it entirely covered with scrub timber, save for two small clearings, the one made by a political refugee and pirate, the other by a squatter who had attempted to grow cotton. In 1848 the island again received a permanent population. The Mexican government found it a convenient place for the settlement of political revolutionaries. These half-voluntary immigrants thrived and now number some 1,400 souls. Maintaining an easy hand-to-mouth existence the farmer-fisher population is practically independent and self-contained. Regular communication with the mainland is only made twice a month. The island also includes a little colony of the shy and cleanly Mayas. (Cozumel: A Mexican Island, *Bull. Pan Amer. Union*, August, 1915, pp. 221-236.)

SOUTH AMERICA

The Field and Forest Resources of British Guiana. This is a special article* on the actual and potential economic resources of the three great natural regions into which the colony is divided. The alluvial coastal belt is largely dependent on the sugar industry, accounting for 75 per cent. of the exports, which, showing many vicissitudes in common with the West Indies, are restricted in the main by scarcity of labor. The labor market relies almost entirely on the immigration of the East Indian coolie. This race is now estimated to constitute over 40 per cent. of the total population. The last few years have seen a notable change in the exportation movement of the sugar products. In the nineties, two-thirds went to the United States, nearly one-third to the United Kingdom, and the very small remainder to Canada. In the years 1912-1913 Canada claimed 70 per cent. of the exportations, the United Kingdom 20 per cent. and the United States 8 per cent.

The broad interior belt of lower hills and plains has a vast source of wealth in its forests at present only exploited in the most accessible parts, that is, in the areas provided with unimpeded stream navigation; for this is the only method by which the timber of higher specific gravity can be transported. The remote and practically unknown savannahs of the interior are great potential cattle pastures.

Chilean Meteorology. Under the direction of Dr. Walter Knoche, the reorganized "Instituto Central Meteorológico y Geofísico de Chile" is doing excellent work. The *Anuario* for 1913, Pt. 1, contains in full the thrice daily means for 30 stations of the first, second and third orders. *Publicación No. 14*, 1915, gives the rainfalls for 1913. The number of rainfall stations increased 75 over that in the preceding year. It is worth noting that Easter Island appears in the list of 7 stations for which hourly rainfalls are given. A diagram shows graphically the amounts of rainfall which fell in 1913 at a number of selected stations. Evangelistas (52°24' S. and 75°6' W.) leads, with about 3500 mms.

R. DEC. WARD.

Commerce of Colombia and Venezuela. Trade diversion through the war has brought the Caribbean countries of South America into closer touch with the United States. Thus, in the case of Venezuela, Ciudad Bolívar, with a former large export trade to Germany and business chiefly in German hands, with outlet via Trinidad, has been compelled to find a new route and a new market over the llanos to La Guaira and thence to the United States (*Board of Trade Journal*, London, July 22nd, 1915). The proportionate volume of total trade between the United States and Colombia has made a large gain: in 1913 the States absorbed 54 per cent. of the exports and 38 per cent. of the imports; in 1914, 73 per cent. of the exports and 43.5 per cent. of the imports. This increasing interest in Colombian commerce might well find further ex-

* By J. B. Harrison and C. K. Bancroft, in *Bull. Imper. Inst.*, Vol. 13, 1915, No. 2, pp. 203-233.

pression in the introduction of productive capital into the country and in the promotion of means of communication, the two features whose lack is mainly responsible for Colombia's insignificant position in the commercial world, her total commerce per capita being only \$7.50 (Colombia, *Supplement to Commerce Reports*, Aug. 20, 1915). Perhaps the brightest prospect of Colombian trade lies in the revival and development of her pastoral industry, which should find encouragement in the possibilities of a new market in the United States. Recently a trial consignment of 100 refrigerated beeves was dispatched thither, and it is said that arrangements can be made for a bi-annual shipment of 10,000 (*Bull. Pan Amer. Union*, May, 1915.)

AFRICA

New Volcano in the Lake Kivu Region. The chief center of volcanic activity in Africa, in recent times, has been among the volcanoes of the Kirunga group, north of Lake Kivu, on the boundary between German East Africa and the Belgian Congo. Towards the end of December, 1912, Mr. Cuthbert Christy, when 200 miles northwest of this district, heard for several days a sound like the firing of heavy guns.¹ The mystery was explained when he returned to England, in a letter received from Sir Alfred Sharpe, who had been in the district at the same time. He wrote in part:

"We first saw the glow of the eruption of Kivu on December 9, 1912. We were then about 70 miles from the volcanoes. The eruption was the outbreak of a new volcano out of the comparatively level ground at the northwest corner of Kivu, 4 or 5 miles from the lake. I believe it began on December 7 or 8. We reached Bobandana station, 7 miles from the new volcano, on December 19. The cone thrown up was then 600 feet high. The crater was 500 to 600 yards in diameter. The lava ran in two broad rivers into Kabino Inlet, the waters of which were boiling. All the northwest corner of Kivu was nearly boiling, all fish killed, a good many people also killed, and canoes lost. The eruption reached its maximum activity about Christmas Eve. By January 15 there was nothing but smoke. The noise was heard at Beni, 140 miles north, and at Bukoba, 190 miles east. Walikale, 150 miles west, was covered with ash, the prevailing wind being east. The new volcano was christened 'Katarusi' by the local Belgian Chief of Post, Captain Henri, that being the name of a village close at hand."

Railroads of German Southwest Africa and the Union of South Africa Connected. The Union of South Africa has built a line to connect its railroad system with the railroads of German Southwest Africa. When the war began a distance of over 300 miles separated the two systems. The British decided, for military purposes, to build a new line from Prieska along the south bank of the Orange to Upington, where the river was crossed. From Upington the line runs northwest to Nakob and thence west to Kalkfontein. The length of the line is 314 miles, and from the time of beginning the survey until the railroad was completed only ten months and four days elapsed. The road will doubtless be of much importance in the future as it brings the two regions into close connection and greatly reduces the distance between German Southwest Africa and all places in South Africa east of and including Kimberley.

Island Geography as Illustrated by the Canary Islands. The present situation in the Canaries illustrates one of the fundamental aspects in the geography of small islands: their peculiar susceptibility to fluctuations of prosperity. Dependent on their normally favorable location as a point of call for coal and provisions, the Canary Islands have at once responded to the partial isolation induced by the war (*Diplomatic and Consular Reports*, Annual Series, No. 5453, Aug., 1915). Coal has only been obtained irregularly and

¹ The Ituri River, Forest and Pygmies. By Cuthbert Christy. *Geogr. Journ.*, Vol. 46, 1915. No. 3, p. 204.

at increased cost. The amount supplied to steamers was, in 1914, little more than half that so used in 1912. Since the commencement of the war the cost of coal freight has ranged between 7s. and 28s. per ton. With the decline in the shipping movement the usual steady demand for labor has ceased. Still worse is the effect on the fruit-growing industry. An important market removed, transportation impeded, exchange difficult, with the consequent glut of perishable cargo, have resulted in a disastrous reduction of an important source of income. Farmers have felt this more particularly because their general tendency is to invest their savings in more land to put under cultivation and not to keep any reserve funds. Farms are beginning to show neglect and it is to be feared that far-reaching injury may be done them if the present situation continues much longer. Further loss has been sustained in the cessation of the tourist traffic and of the embroidery industry. Lack of raw material, which is chiefly obtained from Hamburg, has suspended the latter.

ASIA

Barometric Altitudes in Mesopotamia and Asia Minor. In the July number of *Petermanns Mitteilungen* (pp. 267-270) the late V. Petzold publishes a list of nearly 300 barometric altitudes measured by E. Banse on two trips in the Near East, the one from April 22 to May 27, 1907, and the other from February 24 to May 7, 1908. The first trip led from Aleppo to Diarbekr, thence via Malatia to Sivas and from there via Amasia toward the Black Sea. The second, more extended trip, began at Damascus and led via Palmyra to the Euphrates at Deir ez Zor ($35\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.), down the Euphrates to Babylon, across to the Tigris at Bagdad, up the Tigris to Mosul and then across the northern edge of the Mesopotamian plain via Mardin, Urfa and Aintab to Adana and Tarsus on the Mediterranean littoral. Banse's observed values have been subjected to a careful analysis by Petzold and probably represent as correct values as can be expected under the circumstances. The elevations along the Euphrates are especially valuable, as they represent the first connected series we possess for this stretch of the river.

AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

Rainfall of Queensland. The activities of the Australian Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology are extraordinary. A number of recent publications have been noticed in the *Bulletin*, and we now have a quarto volume (284 pp.) on the "Results of Rainfall Observations in Queensland" (1914). This is the third of a series, which already includes volumes on New South Wales and Victoria. The present publication contains tabulations of all available annual totals, and number of days of rainfall, up to the end of 1913, for over 1,000 stations. Many of the records go back to 1880 and earlier. The maps are very complete. There are 27 small annual rainfall maps (1887-1913); a mean annual rainfall map large enough for wall use; normal monthly rainfall maps; charts showing the number of recorded remarkable wind, thunder and hail storms; an *interim* rainfall map for Papua, and a frost map of Australia. Many diagrams are also included. The volume was prepared under the direction of Mr. H. A. Hunt, Commonwealth Meteorologist.

R. DEC. WARD.

EUROPE

Projected Opening of the Upper Danube for Navigation. The head of steam navigation on the Danube has heretofore been at Ratisbon, Bavaria. Only light boats of 20 to 25 tons draft have been able to ascend to Ulm. It is now proposed to make Ulm the head of navigation. The chief obstacle is a rock ledge about three miles below the city. The Jurassic rocks, between which on the north and the Pliocene Alpine Foreland on the south the Danube forms the boundary, here cross, in a spur, from the left to the right bank. A plan worked out by the city engineers calls for blasting a

channel through this ledge at a cost of \$5,000. All other obstacles can easily be done away with; a number of wooden bridges would have to be removed, embankments would have to be built at several places and the channel dragged for snags. With these obstructions set aside, Ulm will communicate freely by water with Vienna and Budapest and the Danube will be navigable clear across Bavaria. (*Petermanns Mitt.*, July, 1915, p. 259.)

Effects of the War on Geographical Interests. With the publication of its August number and the completion of its thirty-seventh volume the *Deutsche Rundschau für Geographie*, the leading Austrian geographical journal not an organ of a society, announces suspension of publication. The editor, Professor Hugo Hassinger, of Vienna, has been called to the colors. It is the intention to resume publication in a year.

The addition of the Austro-Italian Alps to the areas of military activity has led the Austrian authorities to forbid all tourist traffic in southern Tyrol and western Carinthia. The line south of which no traffic is allowed passes through the following points according to a map published in the *Mitt. des Deutschen & Österreich. Alpenvereins* for July 31, 1915: Feldkirch—Arlberg Pass—Brenner Pass—Upper Salzach Valley—Gastein—Radstädter Tauern Pass—Villach—Upper Drave Valley.

MATHEMATICAL GEOGRAPHY AND CARTOGRAPHY

The Errors of Precise Leveling. Mr. William Bowie, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, addressed the Philosophical Society of Washington on March 13, 1915, on this topic, of which the following is an abstract:

Very accurate determinations of elevations above some adopted datum have been made possible by the great improvements of the wye level during the past half century. In 1912 the International Geodetic Association defined leveling of high precision as that which must have a probable accidental error not greater than 1 mm. per kilometer and a probable systematic error not greater than 0.2 mm. per kilometer. The effect of most of the errors of precise leveling can be eliminated by the method employed. There are, however, errors of refraction in leveling on steep slopes which depend upon the time of day and the weather conditions. It is concluded from an investigation carried on at the Coast and Geodetic Survey that, on an average, the afternoon running gives a greater difference in elevation between two points than a morning running. The difference is greater in cloudy than in sunshiny or clear weather. It is also greater during wind than in calm. The speaker was of the opinion that the runnings in the afternoon in wind and cloudy weather give results nearer the truth than in the forenoon in calm and in sunshiny weather. (*Journ. Wash. Acad. of Sci.*, Vol. 5, 1915, No. 15, p. 555.)

GENERAL

Geographisches Jahrbuch for 1914. The *Geographisches Jahrbuch* for 1914 has just appeared (Justus Perthes, Gotha, 1915). It differs from its counterpart in the field of critical geographical bibliography, the *Bibliographie annuelle des Annales de Géographie*, in that its unit of treatment is topical, the literature of each subdivision of geography for a given period of years being reviewed by a specialist, while the bibliography of the *Annales de Géographie* presents a summary of the literature of a given year, the unit of review being individual publications or series. These two bibliographies, the one systematic and the other chronological, therefore admirably supplement each other; through their combined use the geographer runs little risk of overlooking any essential publication in any phase of his wide field of work.

The present number contains the following surveys: Dynamic Geology, 1909-1912, by E. Tams (58 pp.); Physiography, 1910-1912, by A. Rühl (32 pp.); Regional Geology, 1911-1914, by F. Toula (114 pp.); Regional Geography of North America, 1908-1913, by E. Deckert (24 pp.); Regional Geogra-

phy of non-Russian Asia, 1908-1912, by O. Quelle (86 pp.); Regional Geography of Russian Asia, 1905-1914, by M. Friederichsen (32 pp.). The summary of the literature on North America covers the field well on the whole, although it is more in the nature of an enumeration and stresses important publications less than do the other reviews. The usual systematic index enables the reader at a glance to determine the range of subjects treated and the volume in which the last review on a given subject was published. Authors' names are rather carelessly printed. A. H. Brooks appears thus and also without the final 's'; and F. V. Emerson is designated both thus and F. W. Emerson, with the result that he appears as two distinct persons in the index.

PERSONAL

Professor Otto Baschin of Berlin has received from the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences the silver Leibnitz Medal in recognition of his services to geography. He is best known as the editor of "*Bibliotheca Geographica*," one of the leading geographical bibliographies, published by the Berlin Geographical Society since 1881, seventeen volumes of which have thus far appeared. His studies on the origin of dunes and his activity in the promotion of balloon ascents for meteorological purposes have also been widely recognized.

Professor Arnaldo Faustini of the Università Popolare of Rome, whose visit to this country was noted in the March *Bulletin*, spoke in French before the Journal Club of the Department of Geology of Columbia University in May last on the glaciation of the American Arctic Archipelago. Professor Faustini has presented to the Society a comprehensive collection of his writings on Polar geography, among which may be mentioned his paper on an unpublished chart of South Georgia; a paper on Polar lakes, designed as a contribution to the limnology of the Arctic,—both published in the *Rivista Geografica Italiana*, in 1906 and 1910 respectively; and his book "*Gli Eschimesi*," the only systematic treatise on the Eskimo in Italian.

A. Gibb Maitland, Government Geologist and Director of the Geological Survey, Western Australia, has been appointed President of the Royal Society of Western Australia for the session 1915-1916. (*Nature*, No. 2393, Sept. 9, 1915.)

OBITUARY

E. GELCICH, the Austrian scientist, died in Vienna in July in his sixty-first year. His publications deal mainly with navigation, mathematical geography and cartography. He is best known to geography by his joint authorship, with F. Sauter and P. Dinse, of a helpful primer on cartography (reviewed in the *Bulletin*, Vol. 41, 1909, p. 524), which has recently been rewritten and expanded into two volumes by M. Groll (reviewed in the *Bulletin*, Vol. 45, 1913, p. 542).

JULIUS RITTER VON PAYER, the distinguished Polar explorer, died in Vienna at the age of 73 years. He was joint commander with Lieutenant Weyprecht of the second Polar expedition fitted out by Count Wilezek in 1872 which, on August 13, 1873, discovered Franz Josef Land. Payer at that time made a sledge journey to Cape Fligely, which was the highest latitude attained in the Old World till 1895, when Nansen reached 86°14'.

BARCLAY RAUNKJÆR, who made a reconnaissance journey in northeastern Arabia in 1911-1912, under the auspices of the Danish Royal Geographical Society, died in Copenhagen on July 15, aged 25 years. He sent a preliminary report on this journey in Arabia to the *Bulletin* (Vol. 44, 1912, pp. 657-660.) He was known also for his expedition to Central Tunis and as a writer on the geography of plants.

HERMANN SINGER died on June 14 at Friedenau near Berlin, aged 48 years. Trained as a journalist, he became editor of the widely known German periodical *Globus*, a position which he held till 1910, the year of its amalgamation with *Petermanns Mitteilungen*. Singer's writings refer mainly to Polar discovery and African geography.